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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/700,191	11/03/2003	Kazunori Ishii	9281-4700	3984

7590 06/29/2007  
Brinks Hofer Gilson & Lione  
P.O. Box 10395  
Chicago, IL 60610

EXAMINER
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WILLS, LAWRENCE E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2609

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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06/29/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/700,191	ISHII ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Lawrence E. Wills	2609	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 November 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
    1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/3/2003.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawamura et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0093682) in view of Sakamoto (Japan Patent Application Publication No. 2001-111928).

With regard to claims 1, 4, and 6, Kawamura teaches a printer 1, method (Figure 11), and CPU 81 able to select and print arbitrary image data among plural image data recorded to a recording medium together with a making date, wherein, when automatic printing information for automatically printing a set of image data selected in advance is recorded to said recording medium, printing according to the automatic printing information is executed. (Figure 11, in addition, p [0117])

Kawamura does not teach comparing the dates of the plural image data and printing the newest image data first.

Sakamoto teaches a printer able to compare the making dates of the plural image data and print at least one item of image data starting from the newest image data of the plurality of image data. (p [0021])

At the time when the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to start printing from the newest image data when automatic printing information has not been selected in advance.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to shorten the time a user spends on selecting an image for printing. (Sakamoto p [0021])

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Sakamoto with Kawamura to obtain the invention as specified in claims 1, 4, and 6.

**With regard to claims 2 and 7,** Sakamoto teaches the recording medium is the recording medium of a digital camera. (p [0019])

**With regard to claims 3, 5, 8, and 9,** Kawamura teaches automatic printing information is a DPOF (Digital Print Order Format) file. (p [0071])

### ***Conclusion***

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Parulski (US Patent 7,038,714); Nakajima (US Pub No. 2002/0093682); Tanaka (US Patent 7,224,480); Tomita (US Patent 6,975,416).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lawrence E. Wills whose telephone number is 571-270-3145. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alexander Eisen can be reached on 571-272-7687. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

LEW  
6/25/07



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